

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 51-53 and 85 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 84 has been canceled by this amendment.

I. Claim Objections

Claim 84 has been objected to for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that in lines 2 and 4 of claim 84, the phrase “to be” should be deleted, and that in lines 10 and 12 of claim 84, the phrase “to be heated” should be deleted.

By this amendment, Applicants note that claim 51 has been rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the features of claim 84 (in order to place claim 51 in condition for allowance), and that rewritten claim 51 does not include the above-noted phrases which were previously included in claim 84. Also, regarding claim 85, which has been amended so as to depend from rewritten claim 51, Applicants note that the phrase “to be heated” has been removed therefrom in order to be consistent with the terminology utilized in rewritten claim 51.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 51-53 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment,

Applicants note that claim 51 has been rewritten in independent form, thereby placing this claim in condition for allowance. Claims 52, 53 and 85 depend from claim 51 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 84 and 85 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuo et al. (US 5,003,160).

Regarding claim 84, as noted above, this claim has been canceled and the features recited therein have been incorporated into claim 51. Regarding claim 85, Applicants note that this claim has been amended so as to depend from rewritten claim 51, thereby placing claim 85 in condition for allowance at least by virtue of its dependency.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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